

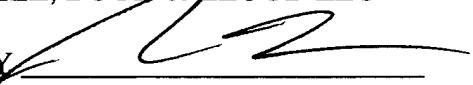
REMARKS

Pursuant to this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-15, 17-18, and 20-26 have been amended and newly-submitted Claim 27 has been added. This Preliminary Amendment does not add new subject matter. The amendments to the claims are not for purposes of avoiding the prior art and are being merely made to place the claims in proper format. Applicants do not intend to disclaim any subject matter in view of the Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

  
Robert M. Barrett  
Reg. No. 30,142  
P.O. Box 1135  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135  
Phone: (312) 807-4204

Dated: February 27, 2004